

MOVING **4** WORD

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SOW Launches New Initiative Focusing on Children

On September 28, SOW International officially launched a new initiative called Bibles-4-Children. The name says it all. This new ministry emphasis is dedicated to providing Bibles, Bible storybooks, Gospel literature, and other resources for children located in the 10/40 window.

SOW launched Bibles-4-Children with an informational dinner. The theme for the event was a "Kick-off Celebration" and felt more like a tail-gate party than a ministry launch. Everyone invited was encouraged to come dressed in the spirit wear of his or her favorite sports team. Over 55 people attended the event wearing Georgia University, Georgia Tech, University of Florida, Dallas Cowboys, Denver Broncos, Atlanta Falcons and other sports team attire. There was even

some local high school teams represented.

The evening began with a catered meal from Atlanta's largest fast-food chain, The Varsity. Dinner was followed by a game used to illustrate the need for Bibles throughout the world. The game began by dividing the room into two teams based upon the percentage of the world's languages that have and do not have the Word of God. By far the largest team was those representing the lack of the Scriptures.

For the first part of the game, a man representing those without God's Word was blindfolded and told to find his way through a maze. Nothing but the voices of everyone yelling directions simultaneously guided him. His attempt was hopelessly confusing.

The second part of the game, a boy was blindfolded and also told to negotiate through the maze. This time, however, the boy was taken by the hand and guided by another person representing God's Word. Instead of 50-something voices yelling directions at one time, the



boy effortlessly navigated through the maze on the arm of his friend.

After the game, SOW's President, Phil Disney, explained the significance of the game's message. While it was entertaining to watch, the sad reality is that there are still millions who have nothing but the voices of false religions and man-made philosophies to guide them. Millions lack the Word of God in their language. As a result, they have no Gospel, no message of salvation, and no spiritual truth to help them negotiate through the maze of life.

Phil and Vice President Larry Bennett then went on to highlight SOW International's Scripture projects over the last three years. A large part of what the organization has already been doing affects children: In 2013 SOW placed over 4,000 Bible storybooks in Iran and Afghanistan; the Boro New Testament was specifically



produced for Boro youth; and because over 31% of the population is under the age of 15, SOW's Gospel project in Bangladesh is having a significant affect on children.

Larry Bennett stated it best when he said, "SOW is not really doing anything different. With our new Bibles-4-Children initiative, we are simply becoming more intentional about reaching and working with children."

Over one-fourth of the world's population is under the age of 15. Unfortunately, when thinking about missions and spreading the Gospel, children are often overlooked or not taken seriously. Yet those who exhibit the greatest faith are children. Eighty-five percent of those who come to faith in Christ do so between the ages of 4 and 14, making them the most receptive to the Gospel than any other age group! Some have called this the "4/14 window."

Bibles-4-Children is combining the area of greatest need (the 10/40 Window) with those who are at the age of greatest receptivity to the Gospel (the 4/14 Window). SOW believes that this new emphasis will provide a tremendous opportunity for God to work in the most spiritually dark places in the world. The goal of Bibles-4-Children is that no child would slip past the age of 14 without a valid opportunity to encounter Jesus.

Two new projects were introduced during the evening. One (and the most urgent) is the Story of Jesus booklet being distributed in Syria and among Syrian refugees

living in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan. Over 300,000 of these Gospel booklets have already been distributed. They have been so well received that 250,000 more have been requested. The goal of Bibles-4-Children is to secure the needed funds for these by the end of 2013.

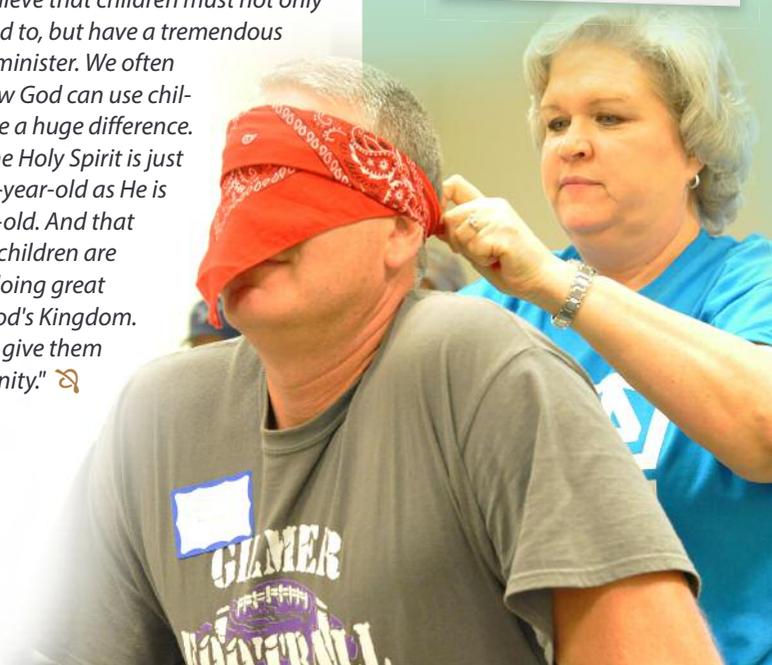
The second project that was presented was the King of Glory book. This book contains 70 Bible stories and illustrations that chronologically tell the story of redemption — from the creation and fall of humanity to the resurrection of Jesus. Bibles-4-Children has partnered with the author, Paul Bramsen, and Rock International to provide these books as a resource for training children to share the Word of God with their friends and family and to become agents of the Gospel.

At the close of the evening each person received a "Team 414" T-shirt. Everyone arrived in the colors of their favorite sports team. They left being part of a new team commissioned to help spread God's Word among the world's largest and most receptive demographic group.

Phil Disney summarized the evening by saying, "I believe that children must not only be ministered to, but have a tremendous capacity to minister. We often don't see how God can use children to make a huge difference. As I see it, The Holy Spirit is just as big in a 9-year-old as He is in a 49-year-old. And that means that children are capable of doing great things for God's Kingdom. Our job is to give them the opportunity." 



For more information about Bibles-4-Children, please visit our website at www.bibles4children.com.



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